

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1 - 4 are allowed. Claim 5 is objected to. Claims 6 - 13 are rejected. Claim 5 is amended. Claims 6 – 13 are cancelled. Claims 1 - 5 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 5, 6 and 12 are objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended Claim 5 to correct the informality and canceled Claims 6 and 12.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's objection for Claims 5, 6 and 12 is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 6, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houston in view of Gilbert et al., and Maeda et al. Applicant has cancelled claims 6, 11 and 13.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection for claims 6, 11 and 13 is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion in the Office Action that claims 1 – 4 and 5 are allowable over the references of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely Claims 1 - 5, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN

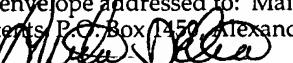
By: 

Eric S. Hyman, 30,139

Dated: November 23, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 11/23/04

 Linda D'Elia

11/23/04
November 23, 2004

ESH/lmd